



WinePress Newsletter

Volume 52, Issue No. 3, May/June 2024

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May Education Program

Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for Your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy!

by Lisa Alzo

Thursday, May 16, 1:00 p.m.

Wouldn't it be nice if all the branches on our family trees were filled with bright shiny leaves that reflected only good kin and happy times?... This presentation will discuss how diseases, disasters, and distress may have impacted your family's history.

*~ Attend via Zoom or in person at the NVGS Library ~
Non-members MUST register*

[Learn More & Register!](#)

June Education Program

Did Your Ancestor Attend Church? Researching in Religious Records

by Lisa Gorell

Thursday, June 20, 1:00 p.m.

Church records can provide names, dates, and relationships about your ancestors. Many of the records from churches and religious organizations pre-date civil records which makes these records a rich source of information about our families. Give these records a try, even if you think your ancestor did not attend church.

*~ Attend via Zoom or in person at the NVGS Library ~
Non-members MUST register*

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Roundtable Conversations

May: **Military Records**

Monday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

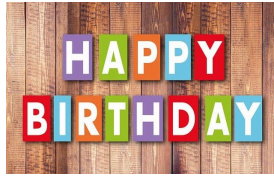
June: **Genealogy Travels: Past or Future**

Monday, June 3, 11:00 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

*~ Attend via Zoom ~
All members are welcome: Join us!*

50th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, June 29th, 12:00 Noon to 2:30 p.m.

NVGS turns 50 years old this year! To celebrate, Society members and invited guests will gather at the library to enjoy food provided by Small World Restaurant starting at 12:00 noon.

A formal program will begin at 1:00 p.m. with reflections on the Society's journey from its beginning in our founder's backyard to the treasured facility we have today. Napa Mayor Scott Sedgley will present a proclamation for the occasion, and we will dedicate a memorial feature in the courtyard honoring Harry "Smokey" Stover, a longtime volunteer and benefactor.

Participants will enjoy viewing artifacts from our history and experience the updated visual displays that make our library more informative and accessible. One lucky person will also go home with a stunning antique quilt that has been donated for raffle.

We need volunteers for short shifts during the event to assist at the raffle table and take stations in the library to welcome guests. If you are willing to help, please contact Sally Perkins at vicepresident@napagensoc.org.

Invitations and RSVPs will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars - **Saturday, June 29, from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.** - for a time of connection, gratitude, and FUN!

[Get the details](#)

Antique Quilt To Be Raffled

by Mark Perkins

In keeping with the themes of family history and preservation, NVGS is offering an heirloom quilt for raffle at our upcoming 50th anniversary celebration.

[Read full article](#)

(no login required)



Caring for Our Library

by Mark Perkins

Springtime has inspired several projects to make our library building more beautiful and manageable. Earlier this year several volunteers with Master Gardener experience placed **native plants along the California Boulevard side** of our building.

[Read full article](#)

(no login required)



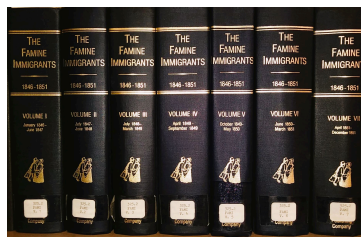
Library Happenings

Discover forgotten treasures, then plan your visit!

Remember: We recently launched **Treasures in Our Stacks**, a new section of our website. Here we highlight some of the amazing books and other holdings our librarians have found in our library's stacks.

We announced Treasures in a recent email to our members on April 24. Don't forget to check it out, if you haven't done so yet. Then [plan your next visit](#) to explore these and more treasures held at the NVGS library.

[See the Treasures in Our Stacks](#)



Volunteer Spotlight



Susan Ingersoll

Susan Ingersoll wandered into the Napa Valley Genealogical Library about 3 years ago and was hooked! Prior to that, she had visited Napa's Tulocay Cemetery to explore her ancestors who came from Ireland to Napa Valley, likely due to the potato famine. Then she landed at our library. "A real place to do family research!" While there are a number of genealogical societies around the Bay Area, this Society's home spoke to her, and that exposure led to her membership in the NVGS about 2 years ago.

As a young adult, Susan lived and went to school in Virginia and got her degree in Environmental Science. She became a science teacher at the Middle School and High School levels and has been in the Bay Area for the last 25 years. During that time, she became involved in doing web design and content writing and has continued learning and using those talents.

Susan's interest in the library and genealogy inspired her to become a volunteer and a Board Member-at-Large about 10 months ago. Her talents have helped transform the NVGS online presence along with the help of our able webmaster, Ruth Jenkins-McIntire. Together, they have made the resources at the library, its holdings, the educational programs, and all the offerings through the Society accessible to members and non-members alike. If you haven't had a chance to explore the website in its evolved state, please take a long look! You have treasures awaiting your perusal at napagensoc.org!

When Susan is not directly volunteering for the Society, she enjoys spending time in the garden at her home in Sonoma County. She has loved the outdoors and nature since she was a young girl. Her fondness for the natural world includes a love of animals. She currently lives with two cats: a little black and white Tuxedo stray boy kitty and a fuzzy Calico girl kitty. They are surely very lucky to be in her care. And we here at NVGS are most fortunate to have Susan on our team as a valued volunteer extraordinaire!

Special Thanks

While every volunteer is deeply appreciated for the job they do, the Board of NVGS is particularly grateful to the following people who offered their time and talent during the last few months.

- Thank you to Margaret Beaubien for helping twice with weeding our grounds to prepare for the installation of infrastructure for watering.
- Thank you to Joan Barber, Gail Martin, and Bente Shoar for cleaning the library kitchen area, carpets, and dusting.
- Thank you to Chris Burditt for launching and refining our new Ask-A-Genealogist program.

Without these special contributions, our library and services would not grow in vitality!

Mary's Book Corner



Reunion: A Search for Ancestors

by Ryan Littrell

Reunion: A Search for Ancestors, is a well-written, thorough book on Ryan Littrell's exhaustive search for his McDonald relatives. He takes us along on his search using Y-DNA, government archives, newspapers, letters, and every bit of information he can find. He puts everything in context by interspersing every chapter with corresponding historical information from each time period. This book is as good as an advanced course in genealogical research.

Happy Reading, Mary

Ask-A-Genealogist in Action

Did you know that men with sufficient means could pay a substitute to perform their military service during the Civil War? One of our members had such an ancestor and came to the Ask-A-Genealogist team to help him flesh out the details of this arrangement.

Chances are each of us has a stubborn question just waiting to be considered from a fresh perspective. If you have a **puzzle or stumbling block** for the Ask-A-Genealogist team, please email Chris Burditt: research@napagensoc.org.

Who knows, you may **get the clue you need** and have some fun to boot!

[Learn more about Ask-A-Genealogist](#) (no login required)

Welcome New Members!

No new members to report

Member Reminders

Ask-A-Genealogist

Do you have a brick wall in your research that you just can't bust through? Ask-A-Genealogist is a member benefit which gives you access to our knowledgeable, experienced volunteer researchers. [Learn More](#)

Schedule your FREE library orientation!

Email: Librarian@NapaGenSoc.org

Call: (707) 252-2252



Recycle to Help NVGS

Ongoing Fundraiser: We collect **aluminum cans and plastic bottles** (no glass please) to recycle for cash. Please remember NVGS when you recycle these items. It's amazing how your recycling donations can add up!

Collect the items in a plastic bag and bring them to the NVGS Library any time. If the Library is not open when you are ready to drop off, simply **toss the bag(s) over the fence** at the back of the building.

Has Your Contact Info Changed?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you change your email address, phone number, or street address. [Contact Us](#)

Did You Miss a Past Speaker?

Members can view **education program recordings** on our website! Click this link, then log in: NapaGenSoc.org/Program-Videos

Monthly program recordings are available for a limited time

Library Catalog Is Online

Did you know that our library has a **searchable online catalog**? Access it from your home computer or mobile device (or use the PC's at our library). [Plan your visit](#) with this useful tool, which allows you to print a list of the publications you want to view. [Learn more](#)

NVGS Events Summary

May 2024:

May 6 (1st Mon): **Round Table Conversation, "Military Records"**, 11 a.m., via Zoom

May (Every Wed): **Library Committee Work Party**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 14 & 28 (2nd & 4th Tues): **Family History Writing Group**, 12 p.m., NVGS Library

May 10 (2nd Fri): **Board meeting**, 10:30 a.m., NVGS Library

May 16 (3rd Thurs): **Education Program, "Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for Your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy!"**, presented by **Lisa Alzo**, 1 p.m., via Zoom or in person at NVGS Library

June 2024:

June 3 (1st Mon): **Round Table Conversation, "Genealogy Travels"**, 11 a.m., via Zoom

June (Every Wed): **Library Committee Work Party**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

June 11 & 25 (2nd & 4th Tues): **Family History Writing Group**, 12 p.m., NVGS Library

June 14 (2nd Fri): **Board meeting**, 10:30 a.m., NVGS Library

June 20 (3rd Thurs): **Education Program, "Did Your Ancestor Attend Church? Researching in Religious Records"**, presented by **Lisa Gorrell**, 1 p.m., via Zoom or in person at NVGS Library

June 29: 50th Anniversary celebration, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., NVGS Library

[Full NVGS Calendar](#)

[Other Bay Area Genealogy Events](#)

NVGS Links:

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[Contact Us](#)

[Plan Your Visit](#)

[Treasures in Our Stacks](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[Ask-A-Genealogist](#)

[Order Publications](#)

[Leadership](#)

[Renew My Membership](#)

[WinePress Archives](#)

We hope you enjoy the new WinePress format!

Please be patient as we iron out the kinks in using this new way of communicating with you.

Contribute to WinePress:

Deadline: 26th of each month

Submissions: Newsletter@NapaGenSoc.org

Subject line: Newsletter item

About Napa Valley Genealogical Society:

The Napa Valley Genealogical Society is dedicated to the promotion of genealogical, historical, and biographical research, and the preservation of family history. The society serves as a medium to share knowledge through workshops and educational programs.

Napa Valley Genealogical Society & Library

(707) 252-2252 | Info@NapaGenSoc.org | NapaGenSoc.org

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